

SALT Agreement 'Very Close,' Dobrynin Says

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The United States has edged a little nearer to a SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, with even Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin joining in upbeat assessments.

Dobrynin met with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance for 40 minutes yesterday. Another meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. tomorrow.

As Dobrynin departed, reporters waiting near his car in the State Department's underground garage asked whether the agreement had been finished.

"We are closer and closer, very close," he said before driving off.

There was no official word on how the United States views developments.

A Dobrynin visit had been expected during the coming week. Last week Vance presented U.S. views on remaining issues for forwarding to Moscow.

IN ADDITION TO treaty issues, there is a question of timing and location of a summit meeting between President Carter and Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev, whose ill health is a factor in the

physical arrangements. Carter has told his aides he does not want American insistence on holding the summit in the United States to prevent a signing ceremony. That would indicate the summit could well be held in a third-country location such as Geneva or Vienna.

Two technical treaty issues remain to be settled, officials have been saying in recent days. These concern the definition of a new missile under the agreement and the U.S. understanding of requirements for verifying the agreement's provisions.

However, the verification issue brought bad news from another quarter yesterday. Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, whom the administration counts as a vote in favor of ratification of the SALT treaty, said he did not think the treaty's provisions at present could be verified.

Glenn attributed the inability to the loss recently of two CIA monitoring stations in Iran that had been able to look electronically at Soviet missile test shots to gather data on payload, number of warheads and the like.

Glenn's comments came in Groton, Conn., at the launching of the USS

Ohio, the first of the Trident strategic missile submarines.

He said he made two proposals to President Carter for stopgap measures to overcome the loss of the stations in Iran. One would involve seeking Soviet permission for U.S. overflights during missile test launches. Another would involve renewing the question of U.S. monitoring stations in the Soviet Union.

THE INTERJECTION of such issues into the SALT negotiations at a time when the administration believes it is on the verge of gaining an agreement seemed highly unlikely.

Glenn indicated, however, that such measures could mean the difference between rejection and ratification of the SALT treaty in the Senate.

The proposals, he said, would leave the fate of the agreement with the Soviets.

"It is their testing that is kept secret," Glenn said in prepared remarks made available in Washington. "We've been able to adapt to that in the past, but recent events make it virtually impossible to check on the Russians with anything approaching reliability."

"Without satisfactory monitoring capability, I think the chances of ratifying SALT II will be very slim. The only way (senators) can vote for SALT II with any degree of confidence is if provisions are written in that guarantee we will know from our own independent intelligence information that the Russians are living up to their end of the bargain."